THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In an expanding organization like the Coast Guard, procurement of necessary equipment including vessels is an ongoing process. The Coast Guard has been adequately equipped to carry out the role assigned to it by the Government. In accordance with the Coast Guard Development Plan 2002-2007 a total outlay of Rs. 4317.01 crore has been provided for this purpose.

Suicide cases in the armed forces

344. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the lastest figures, almost 100 suicide cases are reported every year in the armed forces of our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the suicide cases are more frequent in strife torn Jammu-Kashmir and the North-East region; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to lessen the stress syndrome among soldiers and reduce the number of suicide and reduce the number of suicide cases in armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The figures for the last three years are given below:-

	2003	2004	2005
Navy Army	0 96	03	04 92
Air Force	24	100 13	23
	120	116	119

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proactive approach through better man management techniques is being adopted at different levels. Measures such as identification of high risk category, increased inter personnel relationship and communication between Officers and Jawans, stress management, counselling by professionals, establishment of helpline and increased focus on welfare activities are taken to prevent such incidents.